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Research Note

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN
FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION

Missoula, Montana

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CATALOGING PREP

CHRISTMAS TREE PRODUCTION IN WESTERN MONTANA IN 1945 1/

Christmas tree production in western Montana in 1945 amounted to 2,723,500 trees, slightly more than the 1940-46 average of 2,701,060 trees. Production since 1940 has exceeded 2,000,000 trees with a high of 3,102,480 trees in 1943. Prior to 1940 less than 2,000,000 trees were cut annually.

The lead in county production was maintained by Flathead County with a cut of 1,218,250 trees, of which 166,250 were shipped by rail from Polson in Lake County. Lincoln County was a close second with a cut of 1,190,250 trees. Less than 100,000 trees were produced in each of the other counties.

Shipments went to cities in Arkansas, California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah. Truck shipments were 40 percent greater in 1945 than they were in 1944.

In addition to Christmas trees, which were practically all Douglas-fir, large amounts of decorative wreaths, sprays, rope, and pine cone clusters were produced. The State of Montana sold 16,080 pounds of grand fir boughs for these items.

Of the trees produced in western Montana, 79.9 percent came from private lands, 13.5 percent from national forests, and 6.6 percent from State of Montana forests. The average stumpage price paid for the trees from national forests was 5.4 cents each and for trees from State forests 5.0 cents. No average is available for prices paid for trees from private lands.

Further details concerning the origin of trees in western Montana are given in the attached table.

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1/ Prepared by John L. Timm, Forester.

Shipments of Christmas Trees from Western Montana in 1945

County	Rail shipments 1/								Truck shipments 2/	All shipments 3/
	Great Northern		Northern Pacific		C.M.St.P. & P.		Total			
	Carloads	Trees	Carloads	Trees	Carloads	Trees	Carloads	Trees	Trees	Trees
Deerlodge									2,000	2,000
Flathead	212	1,007,000					212	1,007,000	45,000	1,052,000
Granite			2	9,500	1	4,750	3	14,250	7,000	21,250
Lake			51	242,250			51	242,250	15,000	257,250
Lincoln	239	1,135,250					239	1,135,250	55,000	1,190,250
Mineral									8,000	8,000
Missoula			3	14,250	12	57,000	15	71,250	12,000	83,250
Powell									2,000	2,000
Ravalli			4	19,000			4	19,000	16,000	35,000
Sanders			14	66,500			14	66,500	6,000	72,500
Total	451	2,142,250	74	351,500	13	61,750	538	2,555,500	168,000	2,723,500

1/ The origin of trees, by county and shipping stations, is as follows: Flathead County: Coram, 1 car; Kalispell, 201 cars; Somers, 6 cars; Whitefish, 4 cars. Granite County: Drummond, 3 cars. Lake County: Arlee, 7 cars; Polson 39 cars (of which approximately 35 cars originated in Flathead County); Ronan, 5 cars. Lincoln County: Eureka, 177 cars; Fortine, 2 cars; Leonia, Idaho, 2 cars, which originated in Lincoln County; Libby, 56 cars; Troy, 2 cars. Missoula County: Missoula, 15 cars. Ravalli County: Darby, 4 cars. Sanders County: Noxon, 1 car; Plains, 13 cars.

2/ Truck shipments (168,000 trees) represent a compilation of estimates made by district rangers and supervisors on the Bitterroot, Cabinet, Deerlodge, Flathead, Kootenai, and Lolo National Forests.

3/ The origin, by ownership, of the total production (2,723,500 trees) was approximately as follows: State of Montana forests, 180,235 trees (6.6 percent); national forests, 366,687 trees (13.5 percent); private lands, 2,176,578 trees (79.9 percent).

The 366,687 trees cut on national forests originated as follows: Bitterroot, 10,518; Flathead, 38,083; Kootenai, 317,898; Lolo, 188. The average stumpage price received for these trees was 5.4 cents each. The average price received by the State of Montana for trees cut from State forests was 5.0 cents each.